

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 98 are pending in the present application.

The Office has issued a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 requiring election of one of two groups of claims. In particular, the Office requests election of either Group I comprising claims 1-7, 10-26, 49, and 50-71, or Group II comprising claims 27-30, 48, and 96-98.

Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Examiner's Group I, for prosecution in the present application.

This application was previously subject to a restriction in an office communication dated February 11, 2008. But in the Notice of Allowance dated February 18, 2010, the Office *withdrew that restriction and rejoined the then-pending claims*. The undersigned respectfully submits that for the reasons that the Office rejoined the claims in the February 18, 2010 office communication, the present restriction should be withdrawn.

The undersigned notes that existing claims 8-10 and 31-47 were not identified as belonging to either of the identified groupings by the Office. The undersigned respectfully requests that if the Office maintains the restriction, that claims 8-10 and 31-47 be examined with claims identified in examiner's Group I.

This election is in no way an admission of the Office's characterizations of the claims or the appropriateness of the Office's groupings of claims. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the non-elected claims, as well as any other claims supported by the specification, in one or more subsequent patent applications.

CONCLUSION

The undersigned respectfully submits that pending claims are allowable and the application in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Examiner Felten is invited to call the undersigned in the event a telephone interview will advance prosecution of this application.

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PATENT

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